

Bob Stowers Introduction: The tape you are about to listen to is a group of recollections of Pansy May Yarrington Gardner and Rea Gardner as told at a family reunion May 2, 1965 in honor of their 49th wedding anniversary. These memoirs are in response to questions asked by their sons, daughters and grandchildren. The recording was compiled from recordings made by Don Gardner and Faith Gardner Stowers in the home of Vere and Artie Gardner in Gridley California.

Family attending the reunion included:

Pansy, Rea,

Sons: Allen, Colin, Don, Jack

Daughters: Dixie, Faith, Zoe

Grandsons: Brad, Jerry

Granddaughters: Derry, Jeanine, Linda, Sharon

Subjects covered in this tape include:

- How Pansy came to live in Ogden, Utah
- How Pansy joined the Methodist church, but left it to join the LDS church
- What Pansy's father was like. Her favorite activity.
- Her courtship with Rea
- Rea's Education and favorite subjects in school
- Why Rea disliked music
- Rea's roughneck adventures
- Rea's love of dancing
- Rea's memory of Archibald and Serena Gardner
- How Rea helped Pansy give birth to most of her children
- Pansy's attitude toward giving birth in hospitals
- How her son Jack got his name
- Pansy's Indian heritage
- Why Rea's family left Spanish Fork for Southern California
- Pansy, Rea's and family memories of being sealed in the temple
- Why Rea left southern California for Gridley



Pansy and Rea Gardner

Pansy:

When I was thirteen, they had a birthday party for me. It rather surprised me and in fact it surprised me so much it almost made me mad , because I knew they was going to have Post Office and those kind of games. And I had a boyfriend at that time, who was George Fibbs and he tried his darndest to get me into Post Office and I wouldn't go. Well, later on after we moved away from there, why we went back on a visit and he had never forgotten me, in fact he rented a horse and buggy and still wanted to take me for a ride. I knew he wanted to ask for that kiss he never got at the Post Office. He said, "You never have changed yet have you?" And later on after we were married (Rea and I) he wrote a letter to my husband of congratulations. He still hadn't forgotten.

But when I was fourteen, it seems that Dad had a railroad pass, and we went to San Francisco to Chinatown. Zoe has a memento of that, a little silk handkerchief that I bought on my fourteenth birthday in Chinatown..

And about that time, father's business folded up, in fact, the Santa Fe railroad took the shops away from Ottawa (Kansas) and Dad no longer had work, so he had to hunt elsewhere (for work).

So brother was out to Ogden (Utah). Ben was out there, and he said to come out and I'll get you a job and that's how we got to Ogden, Utah.

And, so I feel that it was quite a move because Mother (Gankie) would oh just talk so against the Mormons. She says you can't date anybody. She wouldn't let me date no one. They could come to the house and we could play croquet but I was never able to date anybody. I had to be eighteen before she let me date. And I know there was a returned missionary who tried to go with me, in fact he was a cousin of my girlfriend. And he was a great big strapping fellow. And he would walk home with us from town with us (my girlfriend and I) but Mother would never let me date him. And so I went on just like that, no dates at all, and when I went to the Prom I didn't have a date.

Oh, I wanted to tell you, I joined the Methodist Church when I was in Junior High School. It's because the minister said to me in the class , he says you are the last one that hasn't joined and we are going to have a baptism Sunday, Easter Sunday, so I said I would join.

And I got up to the rail to be sprinkled and they sprung on me the fact that I never could go to dances because I would be a Methodist. And I told myself later, I says, they fooled me. They didn't tell me that before I got up to the rail. He didn't tell me that before I got up to the rail to be baptized, 'cause they only sprinkled. So, that didn't take, just like water on a duck's back. So I went to my first dance, within 2 or 3 months after joining the Methodist Church. I went to the Junior Prom. I had gone to the Methodist Church for a good many years, but later on, why this story will continue and I'll show you what happened then.

But I went to High School and in high school I took public speaking. At first it was oral expression and then public speaking. And those that heard me here at the church 4 weeks ago -- it was an oration that I gave when I was in High School. And, I had gone back to my book and picked it up and Rea gave it and it was on the Bible. I took Public Speaking and Moroni Olsen, the movie actor, was one of my instructors. It so happened, his father was the Bishop that married us.

After I had gone through High School, I had not only had taken the public speaking but I had art and needlework and dressmaking. I had all of that and I also had cooking. And I'd come home and try to demonstrate at home the things I had learned to cook and Dad would say "who did that?" and mother would say she did and he would push it back. He would never touch anything I had new. So, that's why I never practiced at home anything that I had to learn in school in cooking.

After I had graduated, It was a year about when we had a telephone call from the Washington Market down in Ogden where we lived. He said, how would you like to come and work for us? - He wanted me to answer the telephone. So I went down and took the job. And he (Rea) and his room mate (Milo Nelson) lived not too far away and they would come in and get their meat. So one night, I was in there and I was all alone behind the desk and he showed-up there in the doorway. I said to myself, now I want him to like me -- just like I had never seen him before in my life. So he came over there and he made a date, and that was in December. We started going together in January. He never missed a day either calling me or coming to see me until May the third when we were Married. I don't know whether that *is* good or bad, but anyhow that's what happened.

Well, anyhow, I felt it's quite a thing for the Lord to move my grandparents from New York City into Kansas. They wanted to get away from the hardship and everything in New York City into Kansas, and then for Dad's work to be taken away, to be moved into Utah. And he (Rea) had been on a mission and then went from his mission to Ogden and he was there four years before I met him.

Then after that, grandpa Gardner said, you come down --we've got some land down here in Southern California, so we went down there, and that's where I joined the Church--got away from my people before I joined the Church.

I was going to tell you, when I announced to my girlfriends and the teacher in the Methodist Church. that Sunday Morning that I was going to get married on a Wednesday, they said "To that Mormon?" . I said Yes!. And, you know there wasn't one of them wished me well!. There wasn't one of them offered to do anything, you know, like most of them had done for everyone before, even the girl that married a Catholic. They did have some little doings for her. But for me, they wouldn't even congratulate me. So, that was an easy divorce from the Methodist Church. And that's how I come into the Mormon Church without any regrets.

Jack: Can I ask one question mom. I understand that you remember David O McKay walking around the streets of Ogden. How old were you, were you in High school, or were you out of high school or what?

Pansy: We moved into Ogden, Utah in 19 and 9 (1909) and' lived on 20th and Liberty which is between Madison and Monroe. Well, it so happened that McKay lived between Jefferson and Madison on 21st, and I'd have to go right past his home every time that I went to town. The 4th ward where he went to Church, and where I went for awhile, was on Madison between 21st and 22nd. That's the old 4th Ward .

Don: Was he principal of the Weber Academy at that time? (

Pansy: I don't know what he was, but I know he was a teacher, that's all I knew.

Don: Well, he was teacher at the Weber Academy and then later the principal before they called him to be a member of the General Authority. That is when he was connected with the Weber Academy.

Pansy: I went to the 4th Ward for a while. My girlfriend was a Mormon and lived in the same block on Liberty as I did. Each Sunday, the girls would take turns in giving the lesson and they told me, now next Sunday it's your turn and they turned to me. Oh, I said, "I haven't got a book like you got" "You got a bible haven't you?" And I said "Yes." "Well that's all we're using." I thought they had a Mormon Bible. I didn't know the difference. I was in the eighth grade. I graduated from Ogden in the 8th grade and then on through High School there.

Don: POP, I want to ask you a question: How old were you when you got out of High School?

Jack: Did you graduate from high School in Spanish Fork, did you?

Rea: I never did graduate from High School.

Jack: What happened?

Rea: I will tell you how it went with me. There was only one year in all the years I went to school that I went the full year. I might have gone the first year or two for the full term but when I got big enough to work I generally didn't get to school until the first of November and quit in April. But I always passed. I jumped the fourth grade. Because of my lack of going to school regular ,when it come to the 8th grade, why they told them that I would have to come all the time or they wouldn't graduate me. It didn't make any difference whether he (e.g. Rea) passed the tests or not, I had to have the attendance. The result was, I went to school that year and I graduated with the highest record of anybody in Utah County.

Another girl in the same room, Johanna Johnson was the highest girl. I should have said before, the highest boy. The reason that I didn't go the highest, I'd have had 100% all

they way through, but one little arithmetic problem was two parts and I only got the half, see, so that one question knocked me down that half percent, so you see I only got 99 ½ percent and she got 100 percent, because she got 'em all right.

But then it came to High School, I went one winter to BYU for 3 months, and the next year I went to High School about the way and I got disgusted with the whole layout and that was the end of my schooling.

Jerry: How old were you then?

Rea: I would be about 17. Because I was 19, when I went on a mission. It was the two years I guess before that I quit school.

Don: What was your best subject? What were you best in, Pop?

Rea: It didn't make any difference what subject. I absorbed the information and that was all there was to it.

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Don: What subject did you like the best?

Rea: When I went to school, I never studied and never carried home any books with me and whiled away half my time. People thought I didn't know anything. But when it came to examination I had it all.

I remember when they wanted a reading contest. The County Superintendent came around. They had been run along there all kinds of percentages and when I got up and made my reading, why he give me a 90%, well the crowd just boohooed, so I would get up and do it over again. He said, well I guess it stands.

I never had any trouble learning any subject. The only thing that ever bothered me was learning to sing. (LAUGHTER BY ALL) To tell you the truth, singing causes a displeasure. When I sing more than a verse, my throat becomes tired-- it's displeasing to me. There is very little music that I like to hear. I go to church and I would like to plug my ears until they get through the singing. Actually most of the Church music, I am annoyed by it.

I realize the only person in the world until one day I happened to mention, "well I wish that Bob Fife could play a piece of music so that is pleasing to listen to" and she says "so do I. If I had run this Church there wouldn't be any songs.

Q: Who said that?

Rea: I wouldn't like to implicate but she's a member of our ward and in good standing. Well, I'll tell you who it is, then. Edna Richins.

Derry: Edna Richins!

Rea: She says I'd rather they didn't have any music. They can get up there and have one song and that may be all right, but all they just have music for is to emotionalize the people without any reason for getting them there.

Jack: I want to ask Mom a question: How old were you when you graduated from Ogden High School?

A: I'll have to stop and think. It was 1914.

Don: You were born in '94, so you were 20 years old.

Faith: What were the parties like in your day?

Pansy: I didn't go to any. Mother wouldn't let me. I wasn't 18, she wouldn't let me go out on a date with nobody. I didn't date anybody. I hadn't started in and just didn't have a date.

Zoe: You mean dad was your first date?

Pansy: No. Back and forwards to school there was a young fellow that he quit the Weber Academy to go to Ogden High on account of me, but, Oh Yes, there was a few times that I went out with him. (LAUGHTER). And his name was Clifford Wiggins. The strange part of it was he understood what I liked and what I didn't like. Going down the street, he would say, "You like that house over there. Yes, I sure do. He says, I knew you did or something like that . He seemed like he knew me or at least I had known him previously or something. But, he was a Mormon and his folks didn't want me to have anything to with him cause I wasn't.

But he was easily led. He was a very good looking young fellow and he was moved from Weber Academy to Ogden high school. He made quite a bit money. He would wait tables and dressed real nice and very polite and everything. So, all the girls set their caps for him when he went to Ogden High.

They would invite him on parties but they wouldn't invite me. I told him either you quit them, or else you quit me, one or the other, no more of this. "Well, I promised so and so to go to this party." "Well you go like you promised, but don't come back to me." And that's what happened.

Faith: How did your family spend your evenings?

Pansy: I read. When I was in the 7th grade I was not a very good reader and the teachers said you need to get every library book you can get your hands on to help your reading and that's what I read. I read continuously. Book after Book.

Dixie: Dad, what did you do with your evenings as a kid or a teenager?

Rea: As a teenager or kid I'll tell you. We got together in what you'd call today a bunch of roughnecks. We went out would get out in the buggy and in the winter time we'd go sleigh riding. We run races, summertime, horseback, pony races, we'd buggy ride it.

One particular thing we liked to do was run these races, see. I know, there was no title to it, but if you went to go by a guy, he's not going to let you go by unless you have a faster

horse. And some men were not men enough to let you by, as you come up along they'd cut you and bust a wheel off, which has happened many a time and we didn't have very many rides but what a rig or another was busted up. I'm talking about when I we were 15 or 16 years old, now.

I can remember one night, It was a beautiful moonlight night. We had a good horse and we were coming along this country road like. It was 2-3 miles-between towns and this couple was ahead of us, and I think there was 4 in one of these little buggies, you know. We come up along ,we didn't think nothing about it, just the two of us going home. They were driving one of these Morgans and so were we and they were up and stepping. They stepped to get out and move and we come up along there and went to go by and they wouldn't let us by, see. So, it was moonlight and we could see what we was doing so we were in for a race and when we started to take him, see, that fellow reaches over and hits our horse across the nose. That made me mad and I grabbed that whip and we forgot about the trotting race and the fellow was driving we could outrun him, you see, give him a shot, and I just stood there and whipped those guys like that for about pertinere a minute. I just whipped him until they quit and they didn't want to quit, and we were just fast enough and we held that horse until those fellows backed up. I don't know how I just whipped those boys and girls both, I just whipped them right across the body and the face and I have had to take the same thing myself. (LAUGHTER). There's a lot of whip marks on me and we done it all in fun. We knew who they were. It was all right. Sometimes those things carried over to the next dance and there was a big fight about it.

Dixie: What were some of the popular dances in your day?

Rea: I have gone to a dance every night in the week but Sunday, for two or three months at a time.

Faith: What kind of dances did you do?

Rea: Oh, in those days we danced the one step, two step, the waltz, rage quadrille, quite a bit of square dancing, the barn dance. (that was before the Charleston wasn't it (Carol?) Yeah, oh yes, that was before the chicken hawk. When the chicken hawk come in, you know, it was little like this ••. ; •.• (demonstrated) .

In the waltz you come along with this chicken hawk, see. It looks like a bat .••• (Howls from gathering) I seen them when they first came out. They said it was improper and indecent, would You please stop dancing?

Jack: You mean the church said that?

A: The public dance hall. The church had nothing to do with it. (more demonstration).

Allen: For a man, it probably was alright, but for a woman it probably was indecent.

Rea: Well, it went to from that to the Charleston, when they really kicked it up.

Jack: Well, Elmer Gardner said he used to play in the band up there in East Ogden where Pres. McKay's home ward was and he said it was the fox trot and the waltz. Then they started a walking backwards kind of dance and they actually made them get off the floor, because it was indecent. It was nothing more than walking back. Ask Gilbert some time.

Rea: Every time there's anything ever new come into this country, it was of the devil and it was wrong. The last 25 or 30 years, new things have been pretty well accepted in a general way. But, even when I was a kid, anytime there was something new, it was of the devil. When they invented the telephone, when they invented electricity and all these things, it all come of the devil. That's the way the way them giant people took it.

Jerry: Hey, tell me, can you remember your granddad? (Archibald Gardner)

Rea: Oh yes, I can remember him well! Heck sake, he came to the house once a year. I can remember he generally stayed at our house, see. There were the four children in Spanish Fork, but he always stayed at our house, and he had one of these great big about size 16 watches, and I sit on his knee here by golly and listen to this watch.

Jerry: How old were you then?

Rea: Oh, let's see, granddad died in 19 something, I was getting to be 8, 10 years old. I was born in 91, it was 19 something when grand-dad died, I think (Archibald died in 1902)...As he got older, why he didn't do any work anymore, just sits around. It was the fall of the year when he always come to Spanish Fork and stayed. He had 49 children, you know.

Jerry: What about Serena? What do you remember about your grandma? Did she ever speak any Norwegian to you?

Rea: No! I don't know that I ever heard her talk Norwegian. There was nobody around to talk it. She could have talked it with her own sons that was born in Norway, but we used to go over there quite often. We got a picture over at the house there, the Gardner reunion, with Serena Gardner there. When I was along about 6, 7, 8 years old.

Don: How old were you when she died ?

Rea :Oh , I don't know, about ten years old, something like that.

Don: She didn't live too much longer after Archibald?

Rea: I don't remember whether she died first or him first. Well, it was somewhere about the same period. I'd have to go to the records to really find out. Somehow another, it seems to me like it was 1905. Let's see, that would make me 12 , 14 years old.

Derry: Who was the last wife to die of Archibald ?

Rea: The question was asked "Who was the last wife of Archibald to die?" Mary Larsen.

Jerry: What year? Derry: How old was she?

Rea: I don't know. We've got a Gardner book over at the house. Now remember, you grandchildren, you want to know something about the Gardner Family, why Archibald Gardner's got a record that's big and wide and full, see. He was a man that stopped the

ice. The ice stopped for him to cross it. The Lord stopped the ice, so that he walked across on the running ice. He was born in Scotland and came to Canada, and from Canada he came to Utah and each one of you ought to read it some day.

Don: Mom, what about your grandmother ? How old was she?

Pansy: My mother was 99, one month and ten days when she died. She was a Christian Scientist. She taught me many, many things, my grandmother. The year when Don was born was the year the doctors put the law through that a mid-wife could no longer officiate at the birth of children without a doctor or a nurse being present. Made grandmother rather angry. Because when the doctor made me wait a whole hour for Don to be born, she said "I'd had that baby here before this!". Well, if she had of, I'd have been torn more than I was, 'cause I was torn bad, the way it was. But, she told me, the times coming when you won't be able to turn a hand without the doctor's telling you. And it's true. It got so you that couldn't have your children in your own home, you had to go to the hospital to have their children. I know there's a woman in Santa Ana – they kept her in a car, 'cause she couldn't financially go in the hospital. She hadn't made arrangements. Her baby was born in a car. But, you see they would rather have it in their homes. See what I mean, the doctors had put through that law. I'm glad I had my children and lived it -- all my children were born in my own home, and the doctors say "What do you want done?" or "What would you like?" They didn't say "Well, you've to do this and that and the other".

Don: How many of the kids did you help, Dad, to be born?

Rea: I helped, I personally delivered all of them but two. The first one I had nothing to do with and last one, I sit back. All, the others, I took every one of 'em.

Dixie. Do all of it? Everything? Tied the cord and everything?

Pansy: No, no, that wasn't done

Rea: That was illegal.

Pansy: All he did was lay the baby to one side in a dry receiving blanket until the doctor came and he did the rest, but he was there for everything, case I daresent be alone, I was coming too fast!

Rea: Well, there's nothing about it. You don't know until you get the first call. For two of 'em , I tried to go get the doctor. Well, there she was all alone without him, see. So, after that, why I just simply delivered the child, then I'd go to telephone and tell 'em he was here, come take care of 'em.

Jeanine: Grandma, you sure didn't wait did you?

Pansy: No, and I tell ya, the Lord, somebody told me, just like coming to my door and knock and give me the message, that I wouldn't have time to get a doctor before Jack was born. We had made arrangements with Jack Francis and his wife. They lived next door to us. They came over while he went two miles, either to a telephone or to a doctor. One or the other, it took two miles. While he was gone, Mabel and Jack was at the house. I was talking to Mabel just like I'm talking here now. I said "Mabel, I can't". She said "What can't you do?". I said "I can't wait until the doctor gets here". Aw, she said "you'll be all right". I said, "Well, Mabel, whether you believe it or not, the baby's already here."

Just like that. She looked, and it was. That's when we called him Jack, after Jack Francis. I want to tell you this: that Jack and Milo, I had absolutely without any pain!

Q. Grandma, which number was Jack?

Pansy: Third one. When I had my first two, I was with mother, and she had the doctor in and the doctor said then, it was the first one, "everyone should have 'em as you do". I had that Indian lineage, that the Indian women, you know, used to right down the road on their horseback, get off and go in the bushes somewhere and have their baby, get back on their horse and away they'd go!

Faith: Who do you think you got this Indian blood from ?"

Pansy: My grandmother Yarrington's line. Because, she said her great grandmother was a grand daughter of an Indian Chief, a Mohawk chief.

Faith: What would be her name?

Pansy: Rhoda Maria Waldron. Her grandmothers' grandmother. It so happens that grandmothers' grandfather is a Thomas Clark. (*Maria was pronounced with a long "I" , like in the song, "They call the wind, Mariah*). I had traced sir William Johnson's granddaughter, see he married this Indian woman, Grant. Their granddaughter married a Thomas Clark. It's the right relationship to be the right one, but I can't find the family group. He'd have to have a daughter Sarah to be the one that's my grandmother's line. It looks too close not to have some connection.

Faith: You haven't positively identified them?

Pansy: No, the man in Canada that we went up to see that time , told us the branch, you know, was the Indian Mohawk chief we fought during the revolutionary war. He was a Christian , he was one of the first ones to become Christianized, and he translated the new testament into the Mohawk language for his people. And it's his sister that had this education so, because she was just as much at home in her silk and her goblets as she was in goatskin and moccasins with the Indians. She was an educated. So, with his education, he was alright as long as Johnson was alive, you see. But when Johnson died, this was before the outbreak of the Revolutionary war, and he told his sons, he had two sons by an English woman, before he married these two Indian women later . He told them to be good to the Indians. He had formed the six nations, and they were at peace, but when he died, there was no one to control them. They had a vote, which side will they fight on in the Revolutionary war. All of them said we will fight on the side of the English, with the exception of one, and they went to the side of the Americans.

Dixie: Dad, what brought your family to California?

Rea: Want to know what brought us to California? Zella moved here in 1906, to Southern California. I've heard mother, complain about the gossip and the criticism and the backbiting and irregularity and whatever it was in the church. He gets out of here, where he could live in peace. So, when the opportunity come, why, they moved to Southern California where they could get out of all this tangle. Dad was a high councilman and you had all the politics of the church and all the stuff going on. They tell these stories. I'm going to tell this is the truth, now, as I can remember. Heber J. Grant couldn't sing a

note. He could sing less than I could, but he decided he was going to lick that deal about singing. So he learned to sing and he was down there at Spanish Fork and Edna Brockbank, that Bloud Hussen's sister, was playing the piano and for a joke they said, They says, "let's play one tune, we'll play O My Father on the organ and we'll ask brother Grant to sing "Come Come Ye Saints" and we'll see what happens! And he never knew which tune it was! I've heard them tell and laugh about that-- you can play any tune you want to and give the words to brother Grant and he'll sing 'em. Now there's evidence that you can improve in a deal, you're adapted to some things and some things you're not.

You see, I'd like to tell you this one, for you youngsters, maybe you older ones won't get the kick out of it, but when we were along about 12, 15 years old, I learned this little ditty:

"As I sit here dressed in my plainest paraphernalia exquisiating on my predominate superscription of my childhood days, I will now endeavor most frequently more often on than equal than on an average perigorically speaking of the indominable convocations of congress. I thank you." There is no finish, you can just go on. That's just the introduction. (Laughter)

Brad: Hey, Grandpa, what was the funniest joke you ever heard?

Rea: What's the funniest joke I've ever heard? Oh, I don't know. I hear jokes and forget 'em. Some are good. Some are bad. We've laughed about 'em. I really can't remember any of them now.

Don: Can you tell us about when we all went to Mesa to get sealed? I can just barely remember.

Rea: The only engine going to Mesa-- we had the Marmon car, it was just an ordinary five passenger car, but the seats in the back were big enough that we took a jump seat made out of a 12 inch board like this and that let 'em sit in there and they all sit in comfort. It was all day drive when you got over there. We made it nicely. The old Marmon drove along at a good gallop in the country.

Pansy: I'll tell you one thing about that particular trip. We had to buy clothing for everyone one of you. Six boys with white suits. Trousers, shirts. Everything you know. I had to hunt all over southern California for a white dress, 'cause it was in November and they put all the white things away. In those days it was expensive. I remember hearing him say "Now, don't you complain if we go hungry this winter." I said "Don't worry, we won't --and we didn't"!

Don: There's one thing I remember, more than any particular thing. On our way back from the temple, besides all of us kneeling around the alter in the temple, I was old enough of course to remember that, I'll never forget the narrow escape you had of "click" "click" "click" with the big truck. That, the side things, you know, where you hook the ropes on just hit that fender of the car all the way for the full length of the car. I can still remember pop and mom talking about it "I guess the Lord preserved us". I

don't remember if it was night time or day time, but I remember that truck was so close to us that you could just hear the "click" "click" as it went alongside of the car.

Pop: I wonder where that was?

Jack: It was somewhere out between [unclear] and Los Angeles. I don't remember where I'll never forget that "click" "click" right down the line on the car and the comments that went on afterwards 'cause we had just been to the temple with the whole family.

Pansy: Another thing was, I said to you children: "I never knew you all so quiet at one time." And they said, 'Well, we couldn't make any noise!'

Allen: the only thing I can remember is the waiting room, just all tiles.. Zoe: I do too.
Colin: I can remember waiting in the waiting room. Faith: I can remember in one room-- then all of sudden there was a big huge room, and that's all I can remember --and I was only four.

Pansy: You wasn't four, because I was carrying Dixie.

Don: Has anybody else got anything they want to ask Pop or mom?

Rea: It's ten o'clock. The day is about done.

Don: The day is about done. Would tell us briefly how and why you came to Gridley from Southern California? What some of the young ones maybe don't know.

Rea: Oh, that's a matter of economics. We kinda gone over the deep end and I lost my balance on making a living and we got so far in debt, and the depression's on and you couldn't make a living, and we had the debts and the only thing that saved us from taking it was that the man that had the mortgage was a farmer and the bank was just acting as agents for him, see, it was his money. He had said before he died just to Brace Rizoni, don't close in on Gardner, he's a good guy and I like him. And so the heirs agreed, we agreed that when I could get \$20,000 for the place why I would sell it, see. We had trouble getting refinanced, you know, so we could have paid him off, why we would have been in the clear. But, there was a lady from Phoenix in there wanted to loan some money, so the realtor asked me to come in and when I got in there, why she had taken off to look at another piece, see. I thought, well it looks like I'm out again, it's been going on for a year trying to get a loan. So, while I was gone in, see, waiting, I was still waiting for the deal, why the realtor ask me if I'd take \$20,000 cash money, see. So, I felt obligated to and we sold out, that was it.

(note: Rea and Pansy pronounced the word realtor "rea -al - a -tor", or realator)

Pansy: Wait a minute, let me tell the story from now on. While he was down there waiting for this lady, this realtor came to the house, and we had advertised our place for sale, he said "I've come to buy your place", and I said you know, it's been taken off the market. Well, he says, I've come to buy it regardless, and buy it as cheap as I can. Well I said, Mister, you're going to have to hurry. He's down there now, I told him the name

of the place where he was waiting and I said, you'll have to go down and tell him. So, that's where he went down to find Todden to tell him there was a cash sale waiting for our property. Then he come on home then and for a whole hour, I wouldn't sign. I said, are you sure you really want to sell and leave? Remember you planted everyone of those trees and they're just like children to you, 'cause you babied them along. "Yes, I do" he says. It's time you paid the money you have to on the \$13,000 loan. It's like keeping two families. So, he said I want to sell, so then I signed up to sell . We made three trips out here before we decided on this particular place.

Q. [unclear]

Pansy: Well, his finger, he had it cut off, you see, and he had the infection come in just about the time we get to Gridley. (*Rea had recently lost most of his ring finger on his left hand in an accident.*)

Rea: That was hard luck. The fifth finger, here hadn't been in a bad way, and I could've looked around when I come here the first place, you see, I had the choice of several pieces of land... it happened the one I would have taken would have been that 80 acres, see, but Bouger bought that, adjoined the north side of town. I pertiner had it any, way. We had it lined up. It had no house on it though. 30 days later, when I come back why there was no record of the sale. Bouger somehow or another had it listed as a special with the realator in Live Oak, see, and he wanted \$2000 more than what it could have been bought for, see, and he hung onto that 30 day option and sold it to Bouger I could have bought that 80 acres for \$6500. \$6500, but the Realator said just you're foolish, he say it isn't worth a dollar over \$4000 but we'll give him \$4500. I'd have been a whole lot better if I a taken it, get the idea?. Then, there was a lady down in here somewhere , there were two or three pieces, you know, I could have bought down here by Parkey. I could have bought that for about \$30 an acre, but it was too far out.

End of Tape

Note: there are several miscellaneous, "background" comments that were made by all the participants while Rea and Pansy were talking that are not included in this transcript. To appreciate them, you'll need to listen to the tape.



1928 Marmon 68 Five-Passenger Sedan

Not knowing what year Marmon Rea owned, I found a representative photo of a five-passenger sedan, which Rea mentioned in the tape.

Note: Jerry Gardner and I collaborated in attempting to identify the various voices on the tape. If there are mistakes, I apologize in advance. —Bronson Gardner Family
Tape transcribed 23 February, 2011 by Bronson Gardner